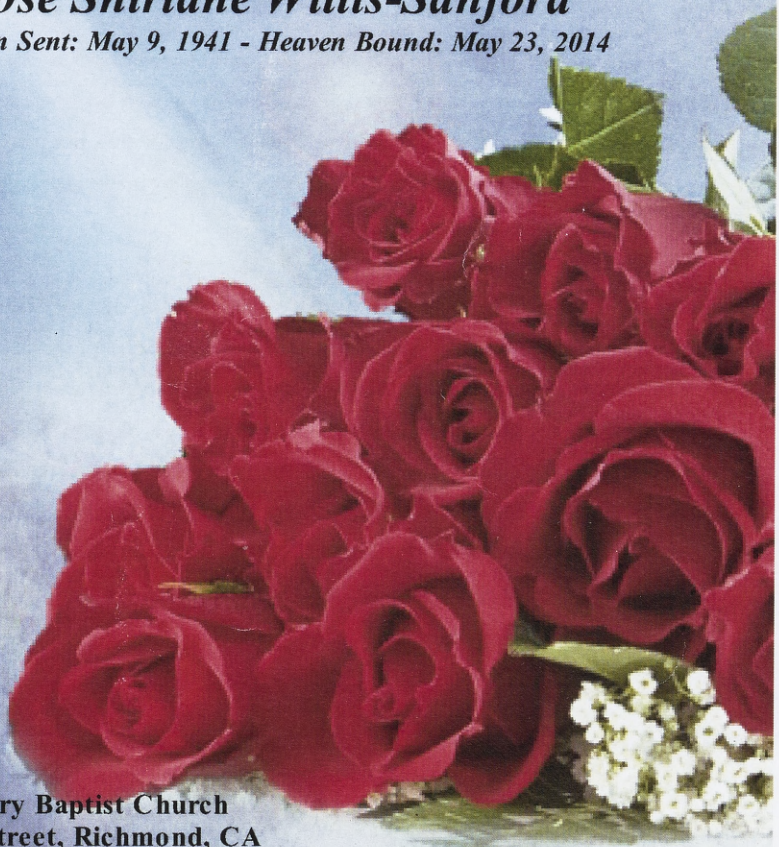
IN LOVING Memory

Rose Shirlane Willis-Sanford

Heaven Sent: May 9, 1941 - Heaven Bound: May 23, 2014



June 12, 2014
St. John Missionary Baptist Church
662 South 52nd Street, Richmond, CA
Dr. Kevin B. Hall, Pastor

A Life Well Lived

Rose (Rosetta) Shirlane Ward Hampton Willis, daughter of Ruby Lee Roberson Ward and Aaron Joseph Ward, Sr. was born on May 9, 1941 in Clinton, LA. She was the oldest daughter (third child) of ten children. She was preceded in death by her father, her son, Isaiah Hampton, Jr., her husbands, Isaiah Hampton, Sr. and Walter Willis, Sr., and her two older brothers, Richard L. Ward and Alfred Ward, Sr. She accepted Christ as her Lord and Savior at the age of eight (8). She was baptized by Rev. Robert D. Thomas and became a member of the Progressive Baptist Church in Baton Rouge, LA.

She attended McKinley Senior High School and Southern University. She married Isaiah Hampton of White Castle, LA, in 1960 and moved to Marin, CA and became a member of St. John Missionary Baptist Church. She worked in the Counseling Department at the University of California at Berkeley for 20 years. She later married Walter Willis of Richmond, CA and moved to El Sobrante, CA, where she began the next stage of her life as an entrepreneur.

The Lord gave her a passion for helping people. She took action every time she met someone in need. On numerous occasions, she even opened her home to those in need. She could not stand to see anyone go without if it were within her power to help. She was an incredible friend and mentor, and was known to many endearingly as Momma Rose.

She leaves to cherish her memory: her daughter, Katrina (Dexter) Hampton-Vizinau; her sons, Marcus (Leslie) Bryant, Andrew Xavier (Sheeno) Dphrepaulezz; her devoted mother, Ruby Roberson Ward; her treasured aunts Carrie Murphy and Viola Hunt; grandchildren, Justin Vizinau, Miles Vizinau, Patima Bryant, Khu Dphrepaulezz, Michelle Vizinau, Duane Vizinau, Aleah Vizinau; great-granddaughter, Pharaji Williams; sisters, Cleopatra Sims, Jacquelyn Flaggs, Sharon (John) Turner, Vicki (Marcus) Higgins; brothers, Aaron Ward, Princeton (Jacqueline) Ward, Eric Ward; God-daughters, Yasmine Flaggs and Darla Scott; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, family and friends.

Order of Celebration

Musical Prelude.....Brother Steven Green

Processional.....Clergy, Family & Friends

Scripture Reading.....Minister Derrick Hunt

Old Testament ~ Psalms 23

New Testament ~ Hebrews 12:1-4

Prayer.....Minister Alex Roberson

Solo.....Brother Steven Green

"Amazing Grace"

Acknowledgements .....Cheryl Patterson

Reflections .....Andrew Xavier Dphrepaulezz

Katrina Vizinau

Expressions (15 minutes total).....2 minutes please

Solo.....Brother Steven Green

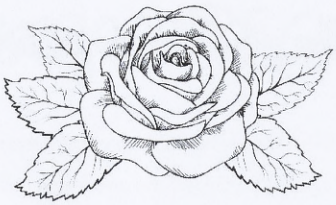
"I'm Going Up Yonder"

Obituary.....Read Silently

Words of Comfort.....Dr. Kevin B. Hall, Pastor

Recessional.....Brother Steven Green

Repast.....Progressive Baptist Church Fellowship Hall



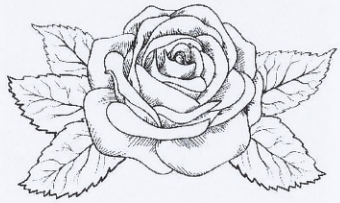
In loving memory of my mom and most precious confidant. You have been the most loving and giving person I know. Opening up your heart and your home to family, friends, and others in need. I've never known a time that you did not share your love for God with everyone. Your compassion was beyond measure. I will forever miss you until I see you again alongside our most precious Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

"When someone you love (and mom this is you) becomes a memory, the memory (and mom these are the many memories I have of you) becomes a treasure."

I would just like to say to everyone who touched my mother's life, God, family, friends, acquaintances, and strangers alike.....Thank you for blessing my mom with your presence, love, relationship and now your condolences. I know she is smiling and looking down at us all blessing us and being an advocate on our behalf just like Jesus. So when you hear that small voice, or feel that nudge to do better and do something to be in good health and spend your money wisely it might just be her loving presence doing what she did best...looking out and pushing you to be your best so you can be the best for someone else like she tried so hard to do while she was here with us for 70+ years.

It's not the things I acquire nor the financial wealth I gain that fills the treasure chest (hole) in my heart but it is the relationship with my Heavenly Father, family, friends, co-workers, and strangers that I'm blessed to have and the memories that I make with them that makes me rich beyond measure and fills my cup until it overflows with love in my treasure chest that resides in my heart.

Katrina Vizinau



Dear Mom, You moved so fast all of the time on this earth. I want you to be still now so I can tell you what have meant to me in my life. I don't think I ever have. First I want to thank you for saving my life. When you took me into your home you rescued me from a terrible life of foster care and group homes. This was in 1983.

I was a 13 year old boy with a big mouth and a lot of potential. You and dad (Walt) recognized that, took me in and raised me as if I was your own. You were both so natural about it. You introduced me to countless Uncles, aunts, cousins and a plethora of extended family. I never knew a world existed of people with so much love in their hearts. I would sometimes check in on the North Oakland neighborhood that you plucked me from and hear the horror stories of murder drug addiction and the capitulation of community. My very close friend whom I ran the streets with was murdered in the very same neighborhood. He had lots of potential too.

I want to thank you mom for sharing your home and heart with me. I want to thank you mom for allowing me to pursue a career in the arts. I want to thank you for giving me a nurturing environment that facilitated my every insane idea at the time. You would sometimes ask me "what the heck are you wearing Andrew" but you always let me wear it. Mom I know I went away for a long time and things felt disconnected at least from my end. I was such a damaged young person when you adopted me into the family and I had many issues to work out. Mom I am glad that I did come back and we reconnected. I am glad that my wife and son were able to meet you and my son Kyu your grandson asks about Gramma Rose every day. I wish I could have given you as much as you gave me. I love you forever and I will not go away again. I will look after Katrina and stay connected with Marcus. Thank you Mom for saving my life

Andrew Willis

Notice of My Change of Address

I wanted to let you know I've moved.
I received a call from my Heavenly Father who informed me that a new home was ready
And that I could move in immediately
It's in the exact neighborhood as my love ones that came here before me
It is a beautiful sight to behold
Located in an exclusive area just off a serene celestial shore
The streets are paved with gold and it sits behind a beautiful pearly white gate
There is a guard here verifying that all names are in the book
There is peace, joy, love and happiness here and every day is Sabbath
There is no more pain to bear
There is only sweet serenity everywhere
We all know that I could go on and on about my new home
But I got to go and get fitted for my new wings
I don't have a phone yet, so just call on God and ask for me
If you don't know his number
He's listed in the Bible on every page and in Psalms: 91
My new address is:
Rose S. Willis-Sanford
111 Eternity Road
God's Kingdom, Heaven

He Only Takes The Best

God saw you getting weary, He did what He thought best;
He put His arms around you and whispered come and rest;
It broke our hearts to lose you, but you did not go alone
For part of us went with you, the day God called you home.

Acknowledgments

The family of Rose Shirlane Willis-Sanford wishes to express their utmost and sincere appreciation for every act of kindness that has been expressed through prayers, beautiful flowers, cards, food and to those appearing on the funeral program. We have been strengthened by your prayers and unselfish devotions. We ask that you continue to pray for us as we continue to heal from our loss. May God continue to bless and keep you always.

Repast

St. John Missionary Baptist Church
Rober L. Johnson Fellowship Hall

Interment

Sacramento Valley National Cemetery
5810 Midway Rd. – Dixon, California

Arrangements Entrusted to

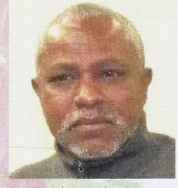
Alta Vista Funeral Home
Yasmine T. Flaggs

We Will Remember *Always....*

Ruby (MaDear) Ward
"My first beautiful baby. I love you."

Jacquelyn Marie Flaggs
"My precious, classy, big sister, the dreamer, the hope giver and my inspiration. Love ya Sis."

Aaron Joseph Ward
"A bubbly personality that just would not quit."



Princeton Christopher Ward
"My sister Rose was always concerned about my business and how I could invest my money and use new ideas to make it grow. I love you."

Cleopatra Sims
"My dear (first) sister, Rose, I love you and the good news is I will also see you one day!"

Sharon Lorraine Turner
"My sister Rose was a visionary with a very big heart for others."

Vicki Antoinette Higgins
"My sister Rose was beautiful. I will miss you."

Eric Charles Ward
"My big sister Rose always made me feel that although my feet were on the ground I should still reach for the stars."